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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/785,197	02/25/2004	Yuki Nakajima	023971-0383	3372
22428 7590 01/30/2008 FOLEY AND LARDNER LLP SUITE 500 3000 K STREET NW WASHINGTON, DC 20007			EXAMINER ALI, MOHAMMAD M	
			ART UNIT 3744	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 01/30/2008	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/785,197

Applicant(s)

NAKAJIMA ET AL.

Examiner

Mohammad M. Ali

Art Unit

3744

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 January 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148

USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 1-17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(b) as being unpatentable over Takeshi et al., (EP 1049234 A2) in view of Staffia (5,732,769) and Ashenfelter (4,576,555). Takeshi et al., disclose a drive unit 10 for an electric vehicle comprising a motor M, an inverter H, a speed reducer (see column 8, lines 37-40), a first refrigerant (water) receiving heat of at least one of the motor and the inverter and outputting the heat into the atmosphere through radiator R; second refrigerant (lubricating oil) receiving heat of at least one of motor and the speed reducer and outputting heat to the first refrigerant through a heat exchanger C; the heat exchanger C transferring the heat of second refrigerant to the first refrigerant. See Fig. 1, column 6, line 44 to column 9, line 2. Also see Fig. 6, 11, 12 and 14. Takeshi et al., disclose the invention substantially

as claimed as stated above except another cooling passage being disposed inside of the cooling passage through which the second refrigerant is passed and the heat exchanger being disposed at a bottom of the drive unit.. Staffia teaches the a cooling passage between external pipe 1 and internal pipe 2 through which (see arrow 5) a second refrigerant (lubricating oil) is passed and the another refrigerant (cooling water) is passed through the internal pipe 4 disposed inside the second refrigerant passage as shown by arrow 7 in a vehicle oil cooling system for the purpose of cooling lubricating oil and Ashenfelter teaches the use of a heat exchanging pipe 54 with cool refrigerant exchanging heat with the lube oil in the sump 70 both disposed under a drive unit 20 for the purpose of cooling lubricating oil. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the drive unit of Takeshi et al., in view of Staffia and Ashenfelter such that the passage of other refrigerant could be provided through the passage of a second refrigerant and the heat exchanger being disposed at the bottom of the drive unit in order to exchange heat with the lubricating oil to cool it at a place where it gathers in a sump of a drive unit. Regarding claims 2-7, 9-11, 14-15 and 18, the specific configuration of inverter and speed reducer; it is an obvious to have a specific configuration of the above objects since there is no criticality or unexpected result from it.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 11/14/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The applicant argued, "Nowhere, however, does Takeshi disclose a heat exchanger disposed at the bottom of its drive unit, or where the cooling passage

through which the first refrigerant is passed-----." The examiner disagrees. During the advisory action this situation was narrated and now the obvious positioning of the heat exchanger at the bottom of a drive unit as taught by Ashenfelter has been described above. Therefore, rejections are ok.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mohammad M. Ali whose telephone number is 571-272-4806. The examiner can normally be reached on maxiflex.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cheryl J. Tyler can be reached on 571-272-4808. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


MOHAMMAD M. ALI
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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